

Pesticide Incident Reporting and Tracking Review Panel

PIRT MEETING SUMMARY

OCTOBER 20, 2005

WASHINGTON STATE PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY
1610 NE 150TH ST, ROOM S4, SHORELINE, WASHINGTON 98155

PANEL MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Lucy Harter, Coordinator	Department of Health	(360) 236-3356
Allan Felsot	Washington State University (WSU)	(509) 372-7365
Steven Gilbert	Practicing Toxicologist	(206) 527-0926
Matthew Keifer	University of Washington (UW)	(206) 616-1452
Karen Ripley	Department of Natural Resources (DNR)	(360) 902-1691
William Robertson	Washington Poison Center (WPC)	(206) 517-2356
Dorothy Tibbetts	Department of Health	(360) 236-3361
Gabrielle Toutonghi	Department of Labor and Industries (L&I)	(360) 902-5478
Ann Wick	Department of Agriculture (WSDA)	(360) 902-2051

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Maryanne Guichard, Chair	Department of Health (DOH)	(360) 236-3391
Alice Larson	General Public	(206) 463-9000
Maria Victoria Peeler	Department of Ecology	(360) 407-6704
Vacant	Department of Fish & Wildlife	

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Anubha Cook	Washington Poison Center	
Dan Coyne	Coyne, Jesernig, LLC	(206) 786-8180
Joe Cropley	Washington Poison Center	(206) 517-2356
Richard Fenske	UW – Dept of Env Occ Health Sciences	(206) 543-0916
Liz Hom	UW	
Kelly McLain	Dept of Ecology for Maria Peeler	(360) 407-6938
Mac Rainey	UW	
Yolanda Sanchez	UW	
Colin Smith	UW	
Allan Welch	EPA Region 10	(206) 553-1980

PIRT Review Panel Activities

Bill Robertson called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. The meeting agenda was approved. The September 15, 2005 meeting minutes were approved as distributed.

2005 Action Recommendations

The motion was passed that the Leads for the Action Recommendations will report at each PIRT meeting whether there had been action or no action by their sub committees since the prior meeting. There were no action recommendation updates for this meeting.

PIRT Annual Reports

All agency reports are due to Lucy Harter by next week. Preparation of the 2005 Annual Report is on target.

Letter of support

Steve Gilbert recommended that the PIRT Panel send a letter to WSDA in support of the proposed rule that would require applicators using air, airblast equipment or over-head chemigation to give two days written notice before applying pesticides carrying a “Danger/Poison” label near schools, hospitals, nursing homes and state-licensed adult or child day care centers. Within two weeks, Panel members will be asked to indicate: 1) whether they support sending a letter of support and 2) whether they approve the specific draft letter that will be sent with the vote.

Proposed Revision of PIRT RCW

Members asked Ann Wick to resend the draft proposal for revisions to the RCW governing PIRT activities (*RCW 70.104.080-100 Pesticide Panel*). Members were asked to send additional recommendations two weeks prior to the November 17, 2005 PIRT meeting.

Science Corner

Steven Gilbert led a discussion on the *Environmental Health Perspectives* paper “*Correlating Agricultural Use of Organophosphates with Outdoor Air Concentrations: A Particular Concern for Children*”.

Presentations

Allan Welch presented EPA’s National Assessment of the Worker Safety Program. The presentation focused on potential regulatory changes to The Worker Protection Standard 40 CFR Part 170. Potential changes included:

- Strengthening the worker training provisions, including content, grace period, retraining interval, trainer requirements and verification system.
- Establishing a hazard communication program for worker including training and field modification and possible changes to the central posting requirements.
- Reconsidering the retaliation provisions of the WPS.
- Expanding the scope of the applicator rules to include all individuals that mix, load or apply any pesticide as part of their occupation, including handler as currently defined in the WPS.

In November, EPA will publish a Federal Register Notice of Intent to proceed with proposed changes to the Worker Protection Standard and Applicator Training regulation. A rule proposal is expected to be published in The Federal Register in February of 2007.

Students in Matt Keifer and Richard Fenske’s 2004 Pesticides and Public Health class focused on the Worker Protection Standard. Teams presented what they had learned about WPS and made recommendations for improvements.

1. Public Health Strategies for Minimizing Pesticide Exposure: Collateral Populations. Yolanda Sanchez addressed the four issues of pesticide drift, pesticide use reporting, decontamination, and exposure of children to pesticides.
2. Evaluating and Revising the Training Portions of the WPS. Elizabeth Hom and Mac Rainey evaluated the current standard for training and recommended changes that address: barriers to workers hearing the pesticide safety message, ensuring that training is documented, establishing incentives for growers to provide training and enforcing compliance.
3. Colin Smith- waiting for his power point presentation.

PIRT Panel Coordination

Panel member suggestions were incorporated in the PIRT Panel Coordination Plan. The plan is considered a fluid document and will be updated as needed. The current plan will be sent to the members next week.

Agency Updates

Agriculture

WSDA put out the following press releases in October:

During the third quarter of 2005, WSDA issued fines totaling \$1,600 against one individual and two companies for violating state pesticide laws and rules. The violations included failing to submit records, distributing restricted-use pesticides to unlicensed individuals, and distributing pesticides that were not registered in the state of Washington.

Hearings will be held in Wenatchee (11/2/05), Yakima (11/7/05) and Olympia (11/14/05) for the proposed rule that would require applicators using air, airblast equipment or over-head chemigation to give two days written notice before applying pesticides carrying a “Danger/Poison” label near schools, hospitals, nursing homes and state-licensed adult or child day care centers.

The standing committee, “Off Target Movement of Pesticides”, of the Association of American Pesticide Control Officials (AAPCO) recommended that the following language be included on pesticide labels: *“Do not apply this product in a manner that allows spray to drift from the application target site and/or cause harm to humans, animals, and /or other non-target sites.”*

The Pesticide Advisory Board met on October 12th in Yakima. WSDA updated the Board on the upcoming hearings, a licensing issue regarding wood treaters and issues regarding the collection and recycling of empty plastic pesticide containers. Minutes of the PAB will be distributed to PIRT members.

Health

DOH Office of Environmental Health and Safety staff met with EPA staff and submitted comments during Phase 3 of the re-registration of metam sodium. Phase 3 is where EPA posts its initial environmental and health risk assessments on the web and invites public comment. The public comments are posted at:

<http://docket.epa.gov/edkpub/do/EDKStaffCollectionDetailView?objectId=0b0007d480794122&docIndex=1>

Labor and Industries

L&I will hold public hearings on October 26 in Yakima and October 28 in Tumwater to receive information and comments about proposed changes to the Cholinesterase (ChE) Monitoring rules in chapter 296-307 WAC, Safety Standards for Agriculture. This proposed rulemaking is based on recommendations by members of the ChE Scientific Committee and the ChE Advisory Committee. These proposed changes would modify the written opinion to address all employee blood tests, to clarify some requirements, and to make some minor housekeeping changes.

Dave Kalman from the ChE Scientific Committee is meeting with the ChE Advisory Committee on November 8th 1-4 pm in Tukwila. He will give an update on the Scientific Advisory Committee report and ask for feedback.

The Second Annual Agriculture Safety Day will be March 1, 2006 at the Yakima Clarion Hotel. This seminar is designed specifically for the agriculture industry.

Future Meetings

It was recommended that Pesticide Use Reporting be an agenda item at the November 17, 2005 PIRT meeting. The topic requires a lead to focus the discussion and assemble materials prior to the meeting.

Location of Future Meetings

PIRT meets on the third Thursday of each month. All Seattle meetings will be held at the State Public Health Lab, 1601 NE 150th Street, Room S4. The November meeting in the Olympia area will be at the Department of Health, 101 Israel Road SE, Town Center East, Building 1, Room 232, Tumwater.

November 17, 2005 – Tumwater – DOH Town Center East, Building 1, Room 232
December – No meeting

The meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.